ISSN 0820-8107

Forestry Canada Forêts Canada

NO. 220

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JULY 1989

In this, the third report of 1989, forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of July 1989 are briefly discussed. There is also a statement correcting an error in two previously published FIDS reports.

CORRECTION - Due to an unfortunate oversight, an error crept into the 1988 FIDS annual report (Forest pest conditions in the Maritimes in 1988; M-X-174) and the same error was carried over to the Technical Note (No. 210) dealing with the Multi-agency plantation pest surveys in New Brunswick in 1988. In the table, "Summary of plantation assessments by tree species and organization conducting field work in the various resource management regions in New Brunswick in 1988," the organizations CBI and JDI have been inadvertently reversed in the table heading. The correct figures are: 55 plantations assessed by J.D. Irving Ltd. (JDI) and 9 plantations by Consolidated Bathurst Inc. (CBI). My apologies for any confusion or embarrassment my error may have caused.

Hemlock looper - Severe or moderate defoliation of balsam fir occurred as a result of a serious infestation of hemlock looper in the Christmas Mountain area of northwestern Northumberland County, New Brunswick. No precise figures are available yet, but the area affected is considerable and covers some 10 000 ha within which defoliation occurred. This is the first serious outbreak of hemlock looper in the Maritimes since 1977-1978, when the insect killed large numbers of trees in Prince Edward Island. There has never been a recorded hemlock looper outbreak in New Brunswick since the establishment of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey in 1936.

Discoloration of hardwood foliage on Cape Breton Island - Severe or moderate foliage discoloration of most hardwood species occurred over extensive areas of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia at the end of June. Leaf browning occurred in a coastal strip along the entire

NURSERIES ☐
PLANTATIONS ☐
SILVICULTURE ☐
UTILIZATION ☐
ECONOMICS ☐
TREE IMPROVEMENT ☐
INSECTS AND DISEASES ■

Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sur demande

length of Inverness and the northern tip of Victoria counties. Stands were mostly affected on the upper elevations of hills or along ridges. The area affected is in excess of 20 000 ha. The extensive damage was almost certainly the result of the heavy southeasterly winds that were recorded on Cape Breton Island a few days before browning became evident. Although foliage injury is most serious on sugar maple, other hardwoods, such as red maple, birch, beech, alder, cherry, are also discolored. Most of the affected leaves showed signs of physical damage, being torn or shredded to various degrees, while others exhibited symptoms of water deficiency. The type of leaf injury and the resultant stand discoloration are consistent with damage caused by strong winds. On sugar maple, wind damage was compounded by the presence of a fungus causing the leaf disease called anthracnose.

Gypsy moth - A single first instar larva, found on a red maple tree near Lake Paul, Kings County in Nova Scotia, constitutes the only new location for the insect so far this year. Almost all of the 8000 pheromone traps have been placed on time, no information on catches is available - but then it is early in the trapping season yet.

Sirococcus shoot blight was found damaging white spruce trees in a central Nova Scotia seed orchard. The damage was severe on many of the trees, with most shoots red and dead on numerous branches. The fungus causing the disease is well developed and will become the source of further infection. Finding the disease on spruce at this severity, especially in a seed orchard setting, is unusual, and this may cause future problems in reforestation programs as the disease is partly seed transmitted.

Dutch elm disease is present in all three provinces although, to date, no change occurred in the known distribution. Infected trees are common in the St. Stephen and St. Andrews area of New Brunswick after a few years of a relatively stable, low infection rate.

Other forest pests of importance in July included: **spruce beetle** killing numerous trees in northwestern New Brunswick, also active elsewhere; **Stillwell's syndrome**, the sudden death of conifers, was common in New Brunswick; **ash rust** causing dieback in Digby County and concomitant mortality in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia; **alder flea beetle** common in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; **a leaf beetle** (Pyrrhalta sp.) on balsam poplar common in southeastern New Brunswick; **fall webworm** common in western Nova Scotia; **whitemarked tussock moth** causing noticeable defoliation in Yarmouth and Digby counties, Nova Scotia; plantation black spruce suffering damage by **yellowheaded spruce sawfly** at 5 plantations in Kings County, New Brunswick and one small plantation at Conway, Prince County, Prince Edward Island; a species of **Conophthorus** damaged 50% of eastern white pine shoots at a York County location in New Brunswick; **elm leaf beetle** common on elm in parts of Fredericton, New Brunswick; and **white pine weevil** damage is more common and widespread in the Region with a high of 36% young eastern white pine suffering leader damage at Cains River, Northumberland County, New Brunswick.

August, 1989

L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Canada